

REMARKS

Claims 7-25, 27-31, and 33-50 are pending in the application, claims 1-6, 26 and 32 having been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

Claims 7-15, 19-25, 27, 31, and 33-45 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claims 7, 27, 33 and 38 in the appropriate independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

Furthermore, applicants have amended the following claims to change their dependencies so that these claims themselves as well as their dependent claims would become allowable: 16-19, 28-30, and 46. This amendment introduces no new matter in the application.

Claims 8-25 should be allowable because they are dependent (either originally or as a result of the current amendment) on the presumably allowable rewritten claim 7.

Claims 28-31 should be allowable because they are (either originally or as a result of the current amendment) dependent on the presumably allowable rewritten claim 27.

Claims 34-37 (original) should be allowable because they are dependent on the presumably allowable rewritten claim 33.

Claims 39-43 (original) should be allowable because they are dependent on the presumably allowable rewritten claim 38.

Claims 44-45 (original) should be allowable because they are dependent on the presumably allowable rewritten claim 33.

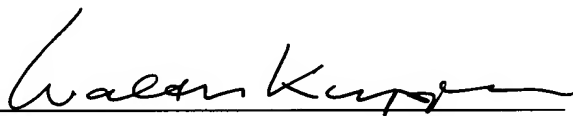
Claims 46-47 should be allowable because they are dependent (as a result of the current amendment) on the presumably allowable rewritten claim 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues of the Office Action of March 5, 2004 have been appropriately addressed by the foregoing amendment and remarks. Allowance of the present application with claims 7-25, 27-31, and 33-50 is hereby earnestly solicited.

Dated: June 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

By 
Walter E. Kupper
Registration No.: 34,954
Patent Agent for Applicants